Talentless Nana

Chapter 2

By Looseboy & Iori Furuya

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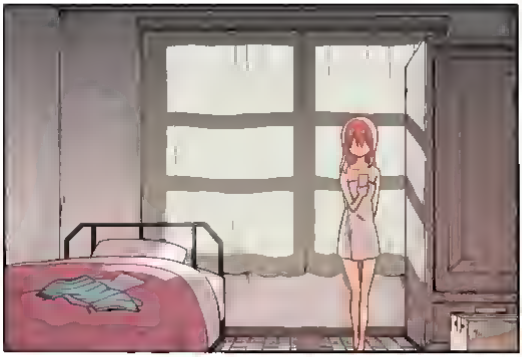
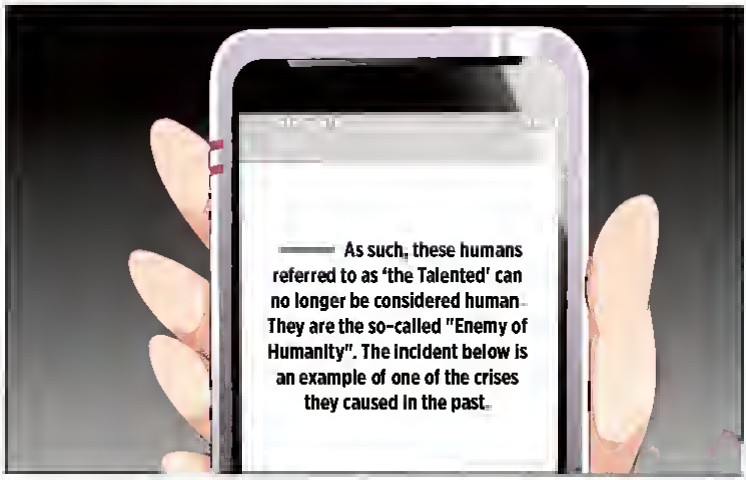
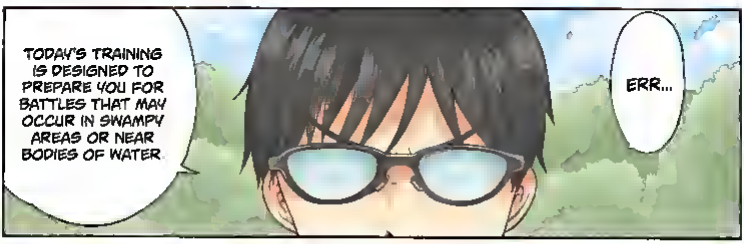
Chapter 2: Backtrack




As such, these humans referred to as 'the Talented' can no longer be considered human. They are the so-called "Enemy of Humanity". The incident below is an example of one of the crises they caused in the past.

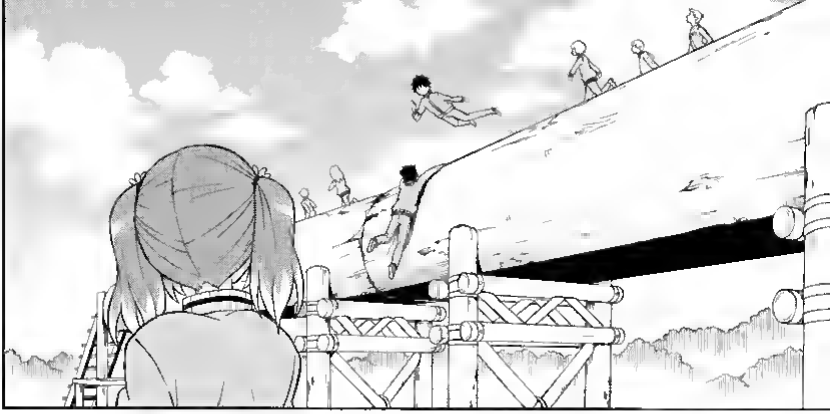

TODAY'S TRAINING IS DESIGNED TO PREPARE YOU FOR BATTLES THAT MAY OCCUR IN SWAMPY AREAS OR NEAR BODIES OF WATER.
ERR...

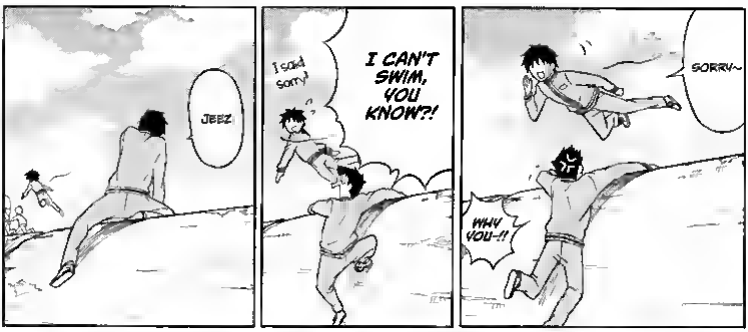
Wheeeeeeee!
...ARE YOU GUYS EVEN LISTEN-ING?!

BE CARE-FUL, THE POND IS QUITE DEEP
WE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT YOU FALLING IN

HAVE IT YOUR WAY THEN PLEASE JOIN THEM AND CROSS THAT LOG BRIDGE
Waaah!
Those rascals
Thump
Thump

OUTTA THE WAY!

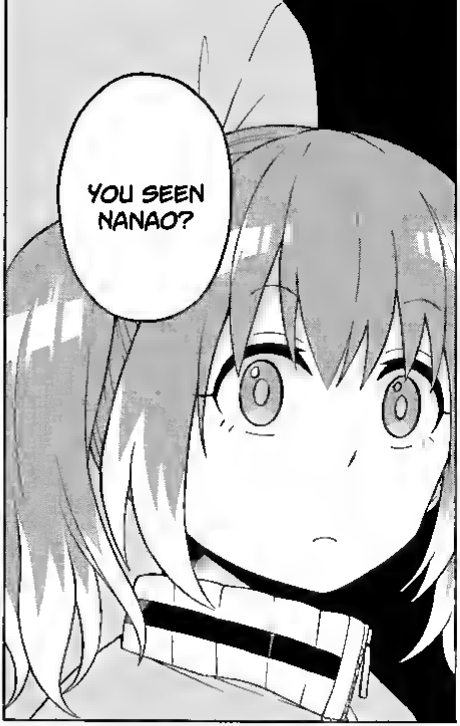



JEEZ.
I said sorry!
I CAN'T SWIM, YOU KNOW?!
SORRY~
WHY YOU-!!

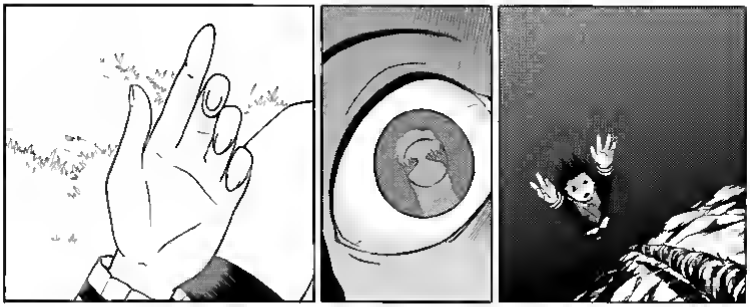
HEY, NANA-CHAN.
NANA-CHAN.

DAMN THAT GUY. I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO ACT ALL COCKY AND STUFF SINCE HE ENDED UP BECOMING LEADER.
tch
BUT HE ENDS UP TAKING THE DAY OFF FROM SCHOOL INSTEAD?

BUT I GOTTA SAY

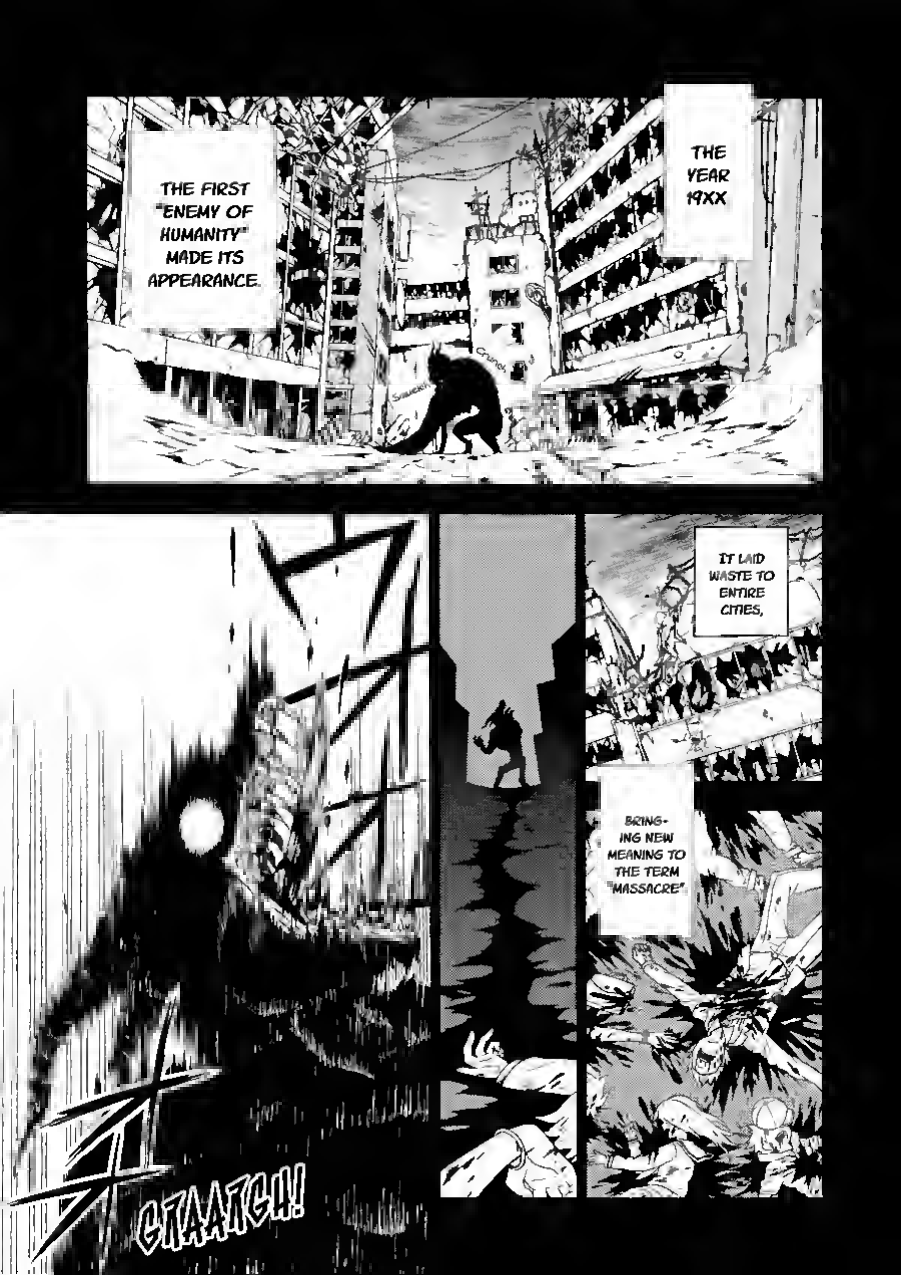

YOU SEEN NANAO?

I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM...
. TO HAVE THOSE KINDS OF GUTS...
CRACKle
CRACKle
Iijima



NANA-CHAN?
Clench

BLOOM
IS SOME-THING THE MATTER WITH NAKAJIMA-SAN?
Hiiragi


THE YEAR 19XX
THE FIRST "ENEMY OF HUMANITY" MADE ITS APPEARANCE.
IT LAID WASTE TO ENTIRE CITIES,
BRING-ING NEW MEANING TO THE TERM "MASSACRE".
GYAAAGH!

IT WAS A HUMAN BEING WHO HAD AWAKENED TO HIS SPECIAL TALENT.
HOWEVER, THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THAT BEING WAS NEITHER THAT OF AN ALIEN OR A MONSTER.
...BEGAN POPPING UP SPORADICALLY ALL OVER THE WORLD.
SINCE THEN, CHILDREN BORN WITH TALENTS...
SERIOUS INCIDENTS BECAME A FREQUENT OCCURRENCE.
THE LEGAL AND ETHICAL FRAMEWORKS OF HUMAN SOCIETY COULD NOT KEEP UP WITH THESE HUMANS WHO WIELDED SEEMINGLY MAGICAL ABILITIES.

HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE THESE ATTEMPTS AT PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE ENDED IN FAILURE.
THE GOVERNMENT SET UP AN AGENCY TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF THE TALENTED.
AND PROCEEDED WITH INITIATIVES TO WIN THEM OVER FOR USE IN MILITARY AGENDAS.
AN ORGANIZATION OF TALENTED COMPRISED OF THOSE WITH POLICING-RELATED TALENTS WAS ALSO CREATED AND WAS ABLE TO PRESERVE A CERTAIN LEVEL OF LAW AND ORDER
THE TALENTED, GROWING DRUNK ON THEIR OWN POWERS
...AS WELL AS DESIRING TO OVERTHROW THE SYSTEM THAT HAD SUBJECTED THEM TO INHUMANE TREATMENT AS RESEARCH SPECIMENS.
...PLANNED A REVOLT.

IN A BLOODY WAR THAT LASTED FIVE YEARS, THE HUMANS EMERGED VICTORIOUS.

...AND BOTH THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENTS SHIFTED THEIR STANCES.

ANOTHER 100 YEARS WENT BY...

THE GOVERNMENT NOW GATHERS AND ISOLATES THEM IN SCHOOLS FOR THE GIFTED CALLED TRAINING FACILITIES,

ON TOP OF PUBLICLY RECOGNISING THE EXISTENCE OF THE TALENTED

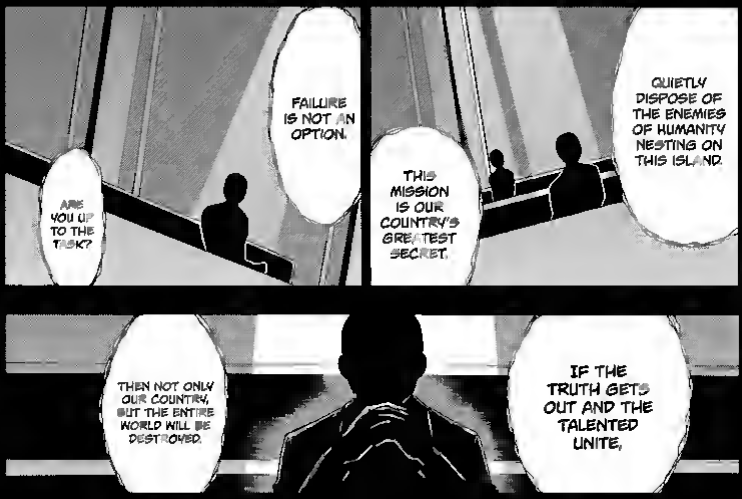
Yawn

OR AT LEAST, THAT IS WHAT MOST PEOPLE BELIEVE.

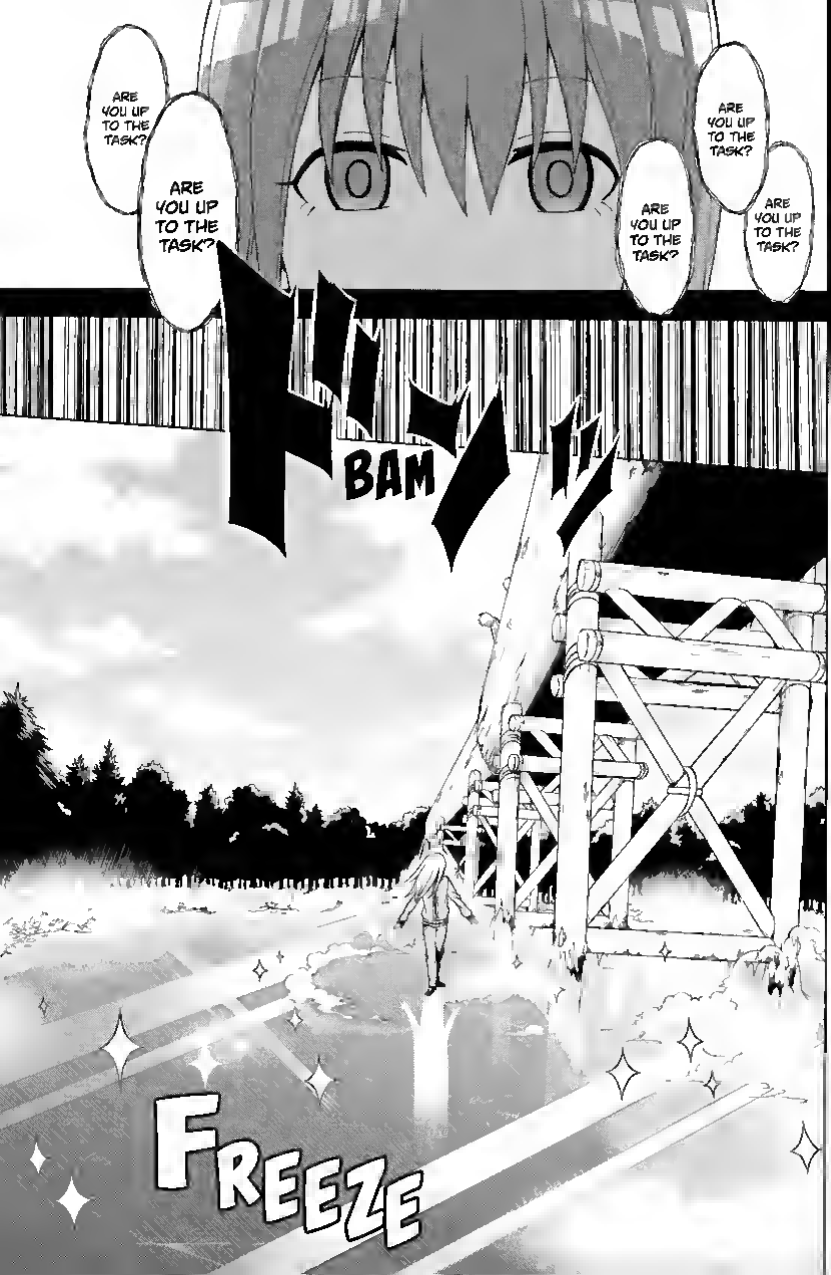
...CALLED "THE ENEMY OF HUMANITY".

AND THEY SPEND THEIR DAYS TRAINING TO FIGHT AN ENEMY...

HIIRAGI NANA...


QUIETLY DISPOSE OF THE ENEMIES OF HUMANITY NESTING ON THIS ISLAND.
THIS MISSION IS OUR COUNTRY'S GREATEST SECRET.
FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION.
ARE YOU UP TO THE TASK?
IF THE TRUTH GETS OUT AND THE TALENTED UNITE,
THEN NOT ONLY OUR COUNTRY, BUT THE ENTIRE WORLD WILL BE DESTROYED.

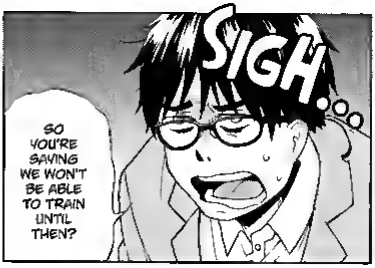
WE, THE TALENTLESS, WILL BE RULED BY THE TALENTED.
ESSENTIALLY SIGNALING THE DEMISE OF HUMANITY.
ARE YOU UP TO THE TASK?

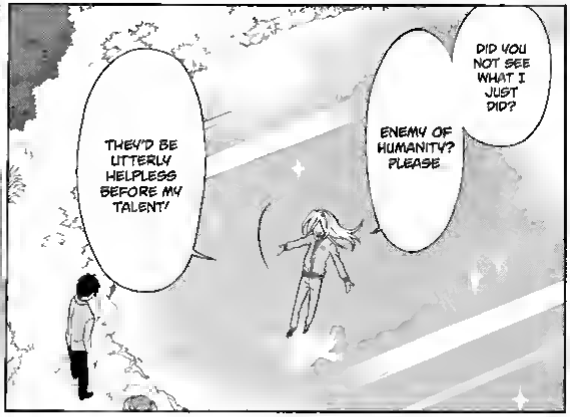

ARE YOU UP TO THE TASK?
ARE YOU UP TO THE TASK?
ARE YOU UP TO THE TASK?
ARE YOU UP TO THE TASK?
ARE YOU UP TO THE TASK?
BAM!!
FREEZE

BAM
SENSEI.
JUST WHAT IS THE POINT OF THIS TRAINING SUPPOSED TO BE?
Sparkle
Sparkle
SHINE!
Sparkle
Sparkle
WELL, I'D LIKE TO SEE IF IT CAN LAST THREE OR FOUR DAYS MYSELF
HOW LONG IS THIS GOING TO TAKE TO MELT?!
WHY THE HELL DID YOU DO THAT?
depressed

IN DEFIANCE OF THE LAWS OF PHYSICS, IT'S NOW FROZEN SOLID
KNOCK
KNOCK
...BUT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT AND FOR NO VISIBLE REASON,
THIS POND MUST BE A GOOD 5 METERS DEEP...

THERE'S NO NEED FOR ANY TRAINING IN THE FIRST PLACE.


SIGH...
SO YOU'RE SAYING WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TRAIN UNTIL THEN?


DID YOU NOT SEE WHAT I JUST DID?
ENEMY OF HUMANITY? PLEASE
THEY'D BE UTTERLY HELPLESS BEFORE MY TALENT!

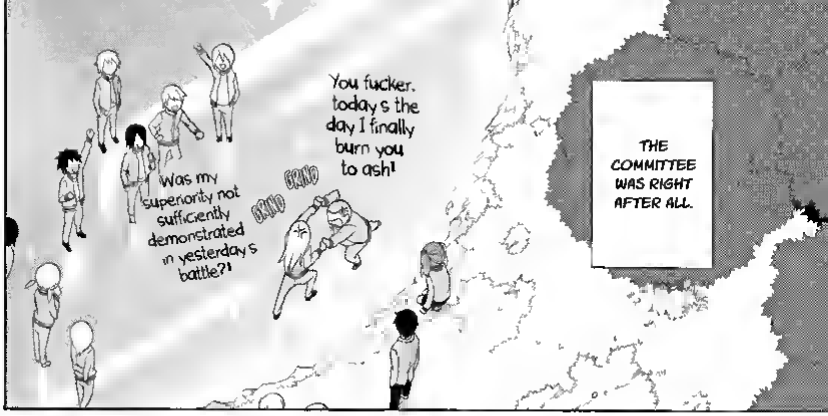
YOU ASS-HOLE! WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU SHOWIN' YOUR POWER OFF LIKE THAT FOR?!
JUMP

blah blah
IT'S LIKE GIVING KIDS NUCLEAR LAUNCH CODES.

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S YOU PEOPLE..
...THAT ARE THE REAL THREAT...

WHAT WOULD BECOME OF A WORLD WHERE CHILDREN WITH UN-DEVELOPED MINDS AND IMMATURE PERSONALITIES ARE IN CHARGE OF THESE TALENTS?
ONE WHO POSSESSES A GUN WOULD NATURALLY WANT TO TRY FIRING IT.
HUMANS WHO ACQUIRE VAST POWER WITHOUT HAVING TO WORK FOR IT NATURALLY SUCCUMB TO HUBRIS.

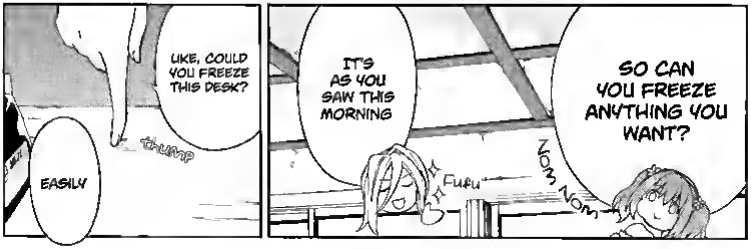
FOR PEACE!
FOR PEACE!
FOR PEACE!
FOR PEACE!
FOR PEACE!
grind
grind
grind
FOR PEACE!
FOR PEACE!


You fucker. today's the day I finally burn you to ash!
GRAB
GRAB
Was my superiority not sufficiently demonstrated in yesterday's battle?!
THE COMMITTEE WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL.

OH.
Of course it counted!
ALRIGHT!

HIIRAGI-KUN! YOU CAN READ PEOPLE'S MINDS RIGHT?
GO INTER-VENE!
Huhh??! Yesterday didn't count!

I WILL KILL THEM.
FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE AND HARMONY FOR HUMANITY.

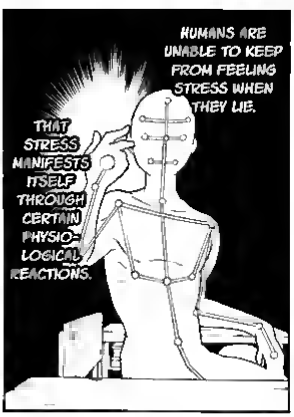

LIKE, COULD YOU FREEZE THIS DESK?
EASILY
thump
IT'S AS YOU SAW THIS MORNING
Fufu
SO CAN YOU FREEZE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
Nom Nom

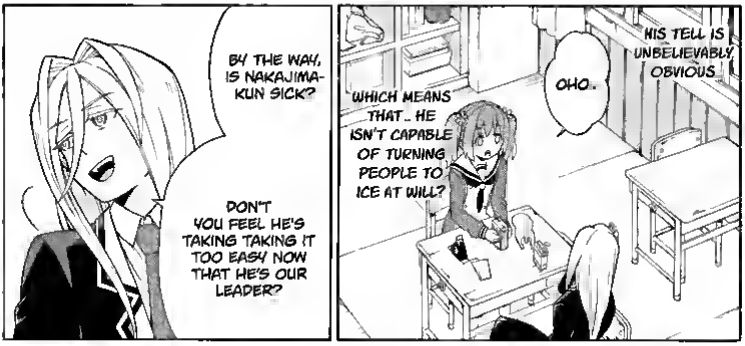
THEN DOES THAT MEAN YOU COULD FREEZE ME TOO IF YOU WANTED?
THAT'S AMAZING!
Wowww

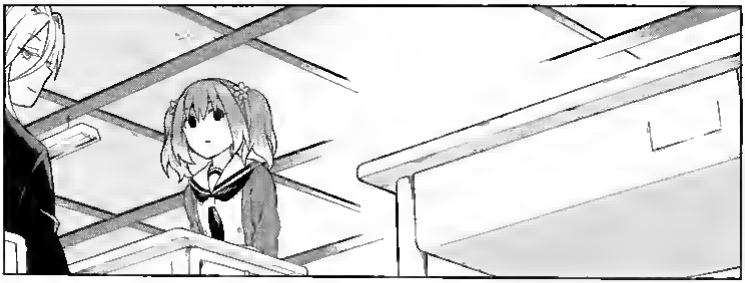
I WOULD SEAL YOU WITHIN A COFFIN OF ICE TO PRESERVE YOUR CUTENESS FOR ALL ETERNITY!
IF YOU SO WISHED!
WHIP
SWISH

THAT WAS A LIE.

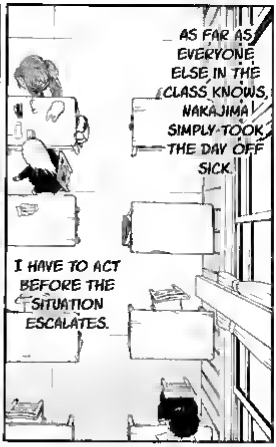
TH-
THAT...
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TURN MOGUO-SAN INTO ICE WHEN YOU FOUGHT WITH HIM YESTERDAY?
THAT'S BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN FAIR.
Brush


HUMANS ARE UNABLE TO KEEP FROM FEELING STRESS WHEN THEY LIE.
THAT STRESS MANIFESTS ITSELF THROUGH CERTAIN PHYSIOLOGICAL REACTIONS.


BY THE WAY, IS NAKAJIMA-KUN SICK?
DON'T YOU FEEL HE'S TAKING TAKING IT TOO EASY NOW THAT HE'S OUR LEADER?
OHO..
HIS TELL IS UNBELIEVABLY OBVIOUS.
WHICH MEANS THAT.. HE ISN'T CAPABLE OF TURNING PEOPLE TO ICE AT WILL?



WHAT'D YOU JUST SAY?! TRY SAYING THAT TO MY FACE!


AS FAR AS EVERYONE ELSE IN THE CLASS KNOWS, NAKAJIMA SIMPLY TOOK THE DAY OFF SICK.
I HAVE TO ACT BEFORE THE SITUATION ESCALATES.

NA-
NAO'S THE
LEADER?!
MENACE
MENACE
MENACE
Uh...
No...
That's
...

I'M THE
TOP DOG
AROUND
HERE,
GOT
THAT?!
HE'S BEEN
PISSED ALL
MORNING
Grr!

BL
AA
RG
H!
ドカ!!
SMACK!!

WHO EVEN CARES...
ARGU-ING OVER WHO THE LEADER IS...
Ah!
!?

SHI-
SHIBU-SAWA...

clatter
MOGUO-KUN... YOU KNOW WHAT MY ABILITY IS, CORRECT?
J JUST NOW...
DID YOU... TIME AGAIN...?

AND YOU'RE AWARE THAT I HATE PEOPLE WHO EAT SLOWLY...
Sigh
...AS WELL AS PEOPLE WHO ARE EXTREMELY NOISY DURING MEALTIME, CORRECT?
I-I KNOW...

BOOM
...ABOUT MEANING-LESS STUFF LIKE THAT.

YOU'RE THE STRONGEST OF US ALL, SHIBUSAWA-KUN ♥
swoon

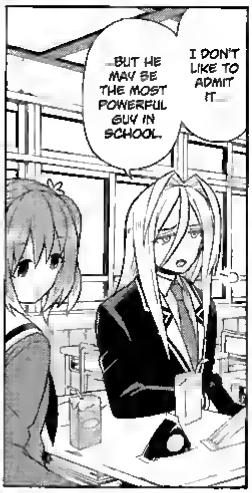
TIME...?

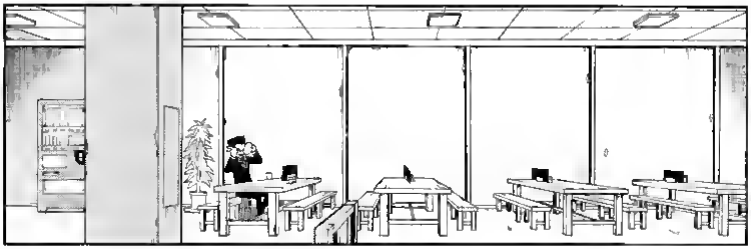
AS LONG AS YOU UNDER STAND
LET'S ALL GET ALONG.
reach

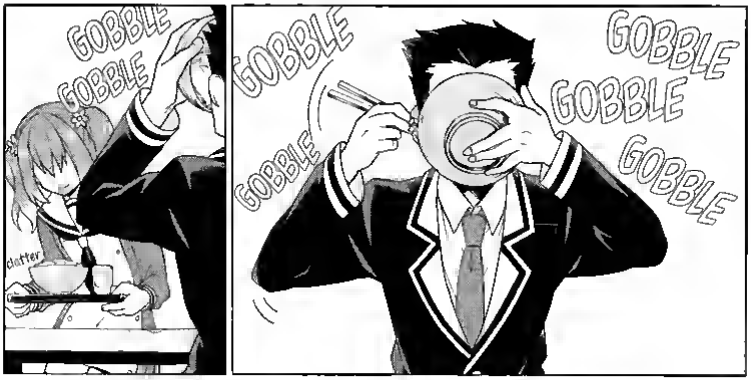
Speaking of leaders, what's going on with Nakajima-san?
Dunno...

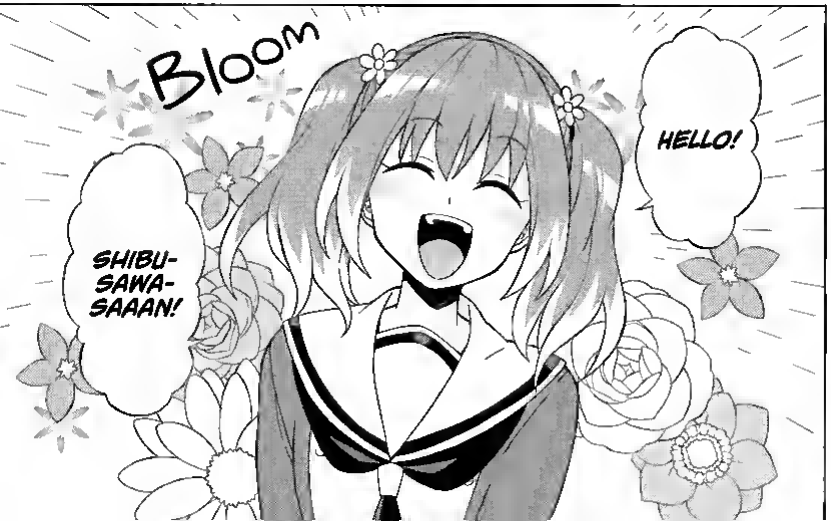
RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE CAN STOP TIME...
THAT GUY...
Whisper

Shibusawa Youhei
Expected Casualties:
Over 8 million.


I DON'T LIKE TO ADMIT IT...
BUT HE MAY BE THE MOST POWERFUL GUY IN SCHOOL.



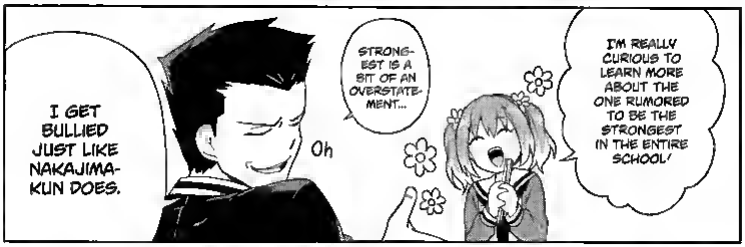

GOBBLE
GOBBLE
Clatter
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
GOBBLE
GOBBLE


Bloom
HELLO!
SHIBU-
SAWA-
SAAAN!

GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE
SNAP
TIME TO EAT!
GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE
GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE
twitch
twitch
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I DISLIKE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOISY WHILE THEY ARE EATING.
IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, YOU'RE THE TRANSFER STUDENT, HIIRAGI NANA
SLURP
SLURP

YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH ME?
Sigh
YEP!

YOU SEEM TO ENJOY YOURSELF QUITE A LOT WHILE EATING TOO, SHIBU-SAWA-SAN!
That was...
...delicious!

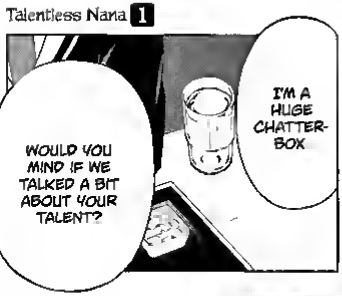

I GET BULLIED JUST LIKE NAKAJIMA-KUN DOES.
Oh
STRONG-EST IS A BIT OF AN OVERSTATE-MENT...
I'M REALLY CURIOUS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ONE RUMORED TO BE THE STRONGEST IN THE ENTIRE SCHOOL!

SPLASH

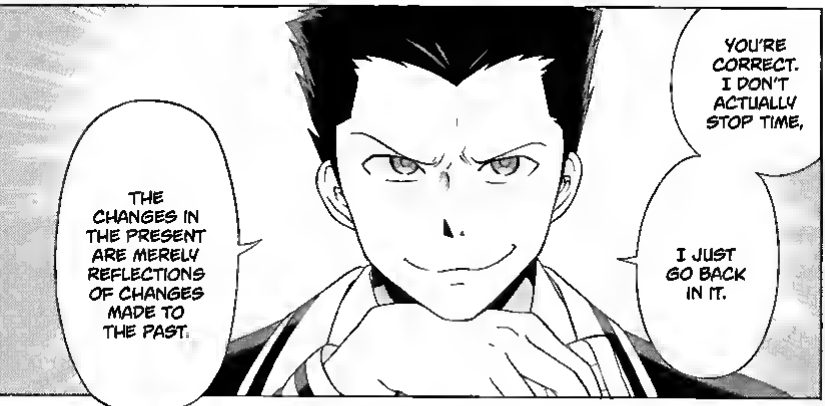
BUMP

JUST THIS MORNING, I WAS ALMOST SENT FLYING INTO THE POND
Ah
CAN I HAVE SOME OF YOUR VEGGIES?

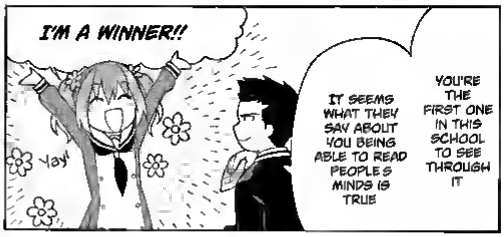
UMM... WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
THAT WAS MY TALENT
I CAN STOP TIME
Phew...
PLEASE DON'T GO TELLING EVERYONE.
BUT...


I'M A HUGE CHATTER-BOX
WOULD YOU MIND IF WE TALKED A BIT ABOUT YOUR TALENT?
Hmph

IT'S NOT QUITE...
"STOP-PING" TIME, IS IT?

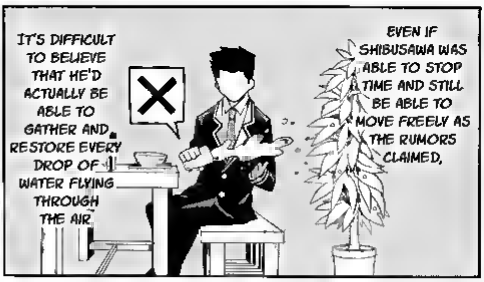

YOU'RE CORRECT. I DON'T ACTUALLY STOP TIME,
I JUST GO BACK IN IT.
THE CHANGES IN THE PRESENT ARE MERELY REFLECTIONS OF CHANGES MADE TO THE PAST.

IT'S PRETTY HARD TO BELIEVE,
BUT I GUESS THAT'S MORE OR LESS HOW IT IS.


I'M A WINNER!!
Yay!
IT SEEMS WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT YOU BEING ABLE TO READ PEOPLE'S MINDS IS TRUE
YOU'RE THE FIRST ONE IN THIS SCHOOL TO SEE THROUGH IT

HOWEVER, NOT A SINGLE DROP OF WATER TOUCHED THE FLOOR OR SHIBUSAWA'S CLOTHES.
THERE'S NO MISTAKING THE FACT THAT THE CUP OF WATER FELL OFF THE TABLE.

AND IT EXPLAINS WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER AS WELL.


IT'S DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT HE'D ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO GATHER AND RESTORE EVERY DROP OF WATER FLYING THROUGH THE AIR.
EVEN IF SHIBUSAWA WAS ABLE TO STOP TIME AND STILL BE ABLE TO MOVE FREELY AS THE RUMORS CLAIMED,

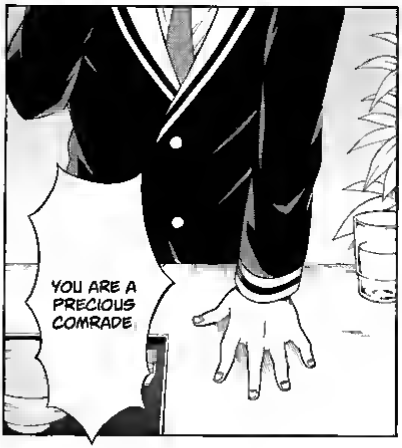
AND CREATED A PRESENT IN WHICH THE CUP DID NOT FALL BY POSITIONING HIS HAND TO CATCH IT IN TIME.
LOGICALLY, IT MAKES MORE SENSE THAT SHIBUSAWA DID NOT ACTUALLY STOP TIME. INSTEAD, HE TRAVELED BACK TO THE MOMENT BEFORE THE CUP FELL.

IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY THAT WOULD HAVE RESTORED THE BOY'S COLLAR TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE.
EVEN IF SHIBUSAWA HAD PUNCHED MOGUO WHILE TIME WAS FROZEN,

...AND PUNCHED HIM
WHICH MEANS THAT IN THE MOGUO INCIDENT, HE RETURNED TO THE POINT IN TIME BEFORE MOGUO GRABBED HOLD OF THE BOY'S COLLAR

HUH?
GLITTER
THIS IS FANTASTIC, HIIRAGI NANA-SAN!

JOIN...
...ME...


YOU ARE A PRECIOUS COMRADE

...AND LET US REMAKE THIS WORLD TOGETH-ER!!
LEAN
わっ

UH
Remake...?
UM...?
THIS WORLD OVERFLOWS WITH POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION.
HOWEVER, WOULDN'T ONE WHO POSSESSES A TALENT THAT CAN CHANGE THE PAST
BE ABLE TO EXTERMINATE ALL ILLS FROM THIS WORLD?

I, THE INFALLIBLE ONE, AM THE ONE TRUE JUSTICE OF THIS WORLD
BECAUSE I CAN CHANGE THE PAST.
REACH
HOHO... THAT'S PRETTY ROUND-ABOUT...
IF YOU MADE A SINGLE MISTAKE, WOULDN'T YOU COMPLETELY SCREW UP THE COURSE OF HISTORY?
I DON'T MAKE MISTAKES.
OHH!!
I SEE!!
GRAB
IT APPEARS THAT EVEN HIS REASON HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THOSE REALITY-BENDING POWERS OF HIS.

I'LL BE CARE-FUL.

IF BY ANY CHANCE THIS GUY WERE TO WITNESS ANY OF MY PAST "TAKE-DOWNS"
THIS IS BAD

I DESPISE THOSE WHO LEAVE EVEN A SINGLE GRAIN OF RICE IN THEIR BOWL.
BE SURE TO REMEMBER THAT.
BOOM

WOULD YOU MIND...
...USING THAT TALENT OF YOURS TO INVESTIGATE NAKAJIMA'S DISAPPEAR-ANCE?

DON'T WORRY I WON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE ABOUT YOUR TALENT.
DOESN'T REALLY MATTER NOT LIKE ANYONE WOULD BE ABLE TO BEAT ME EVEN IF THEY KNEW WHAT IT WAS

YOU ARE

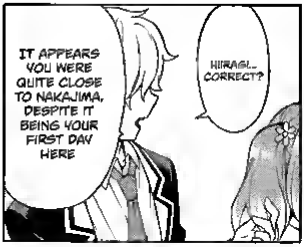
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY NAKAJIMA'S "DISAPPEAR ANCE"?
ISN'T HE JUST TAKING THE DAY OFF?
IT APPEARS HE DIDN'T INFORM THE SCHOOL THAT HE'D BE ABSENT TODAY.

I DIDN'T HEAR A SINGLE SOUND ALL NIGHT DESPITE OUR WALLS BEING PAPER THIN.
NAKAJIMA'S ROOM IS NEXT TO MINE.
WHEN I NOTICED HE DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL TODAY, I WENT TO HIS ROOM TO LOOK FOR HIM BUT DIDN'T GET ANY RESPONSE.

MAYBE HE HAS A COLD AND IS JUST SLEEPING IT OFF IN HIS ROOM?
ACTUALLY, IT APPEARS HE HASN'T EVEN RETURNED TO HIS ROOM SINCE YESTERDAY

BRUSH

YES, NAKAJIMA-SAN IS A NICE GUY


IT APPEARS YOU WERE QUITE CLOSE TO NAKAJIMA, DESPITE IT BEING YOUR FIRST DAY HERE
HIIRAGI... CORRECT?

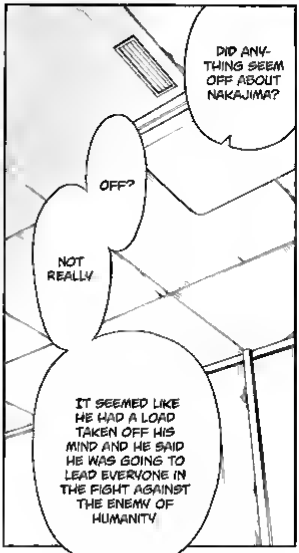
WHERE DID YOU GO?
AND WHAT DID YOU DO TOGETHER?

YOU LEFT SCHOOL TOGETHER WITH NAKAJIMA YESTERDAY, DID YOU NOT?
YES...

.....
WHAT DID WE DO...
WE CELEBRATED HIM BECOMING LEADER
SOME-THING LIKE THAT I GUESS..?

DO TELL...
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOU WERE THE LAST PERSON TO SEE NAKAJIMA

AFTER THAT...
DID THE TWO OF YOU RETURN TO THE DORMS TOGETHER?


DID ANY-THING SEEM OFF ABOUT NAKAJIMA?
OFF?
NOT REALLY
IT SEEMED LIKE HE HAD A LOAD TAKEN OFF HIS MIND AND HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO LEAD EVERYONE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ENEMY OF HUMANITY

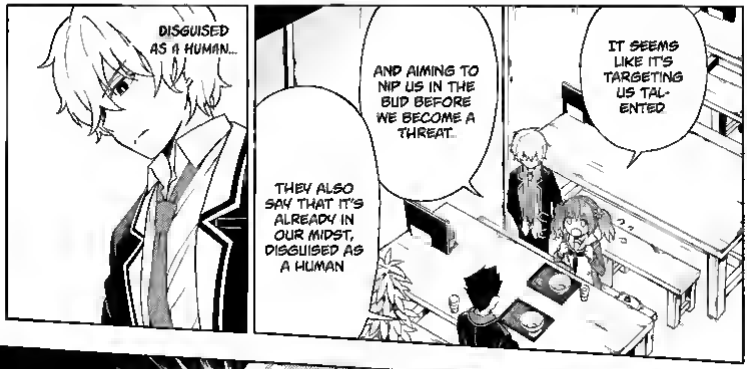
I CAN'T AFFORD TO ANSWER CARELESSLY HERE
HE MIGHT BE USING SOME SORT OF TALENT TO PROBE ME...

UMM... SO YOU'VE BEEN KIND OF... MY HAIR FOR A WHILE NOW...
UMM ONODERA-SAN...
CALL ME KYOUYA
OKAY, CALL ME NANA TOO

SORRY, I GET THESE URGES
MY LITTLE SISTER HAS THE SAME HAIRSTYLE.

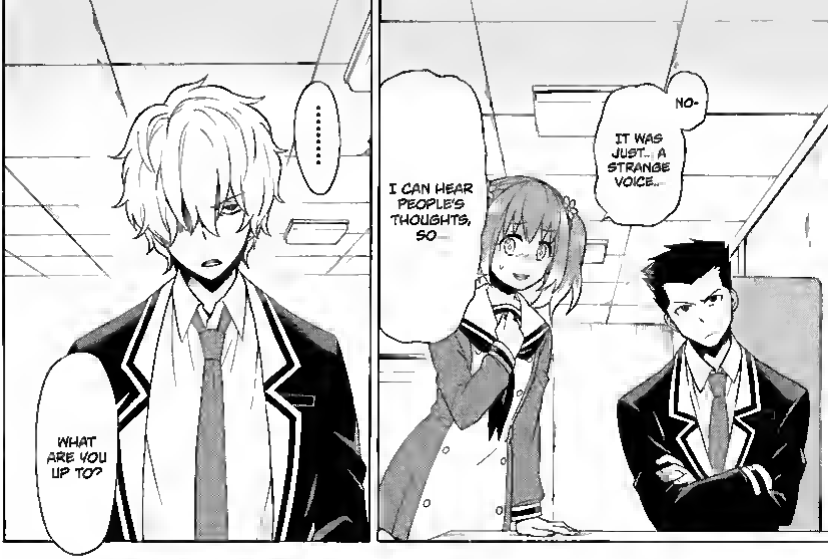
THE HELL IS WITH THIS GUY?
I SOME-TIMES GET THE URGE TO GRAB HOLD OF TAIL-SHAPED OBJECTS
YOU APOLO-GIZED BUT...
WAIT
LITTLE SISTER?

IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO CHANGE THE TOPIC.
HE IS MISSING AFTER ALL
KYOUYA, SO YOU BELIEVE THAT SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO NAKAJIMA-SAN?
whirl
W-
WHAT IF...
IT WAS THE ENEMY OF HUMANITY..?
THERE HAS BEEN A RUMOR
...LIKE THAT GOING AROUND
hmm


DISGUISED AS A HUMAN...
THEY ALSO SAY THAT IT'S ALREADY IN OUR MIDST, DISGUISED AS A HUMAN
AND AIMING TO NIP US IN THE BUD BEFORE WE BECOME A THREAT...
IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S TARGETING US TALENTED

DON'T TELL ME
KYOUYA-SAN...
N-
NOTHING...
?
CLATTER
WHAT'S WRONG, HIIRAGI?

WHAT IS IT?

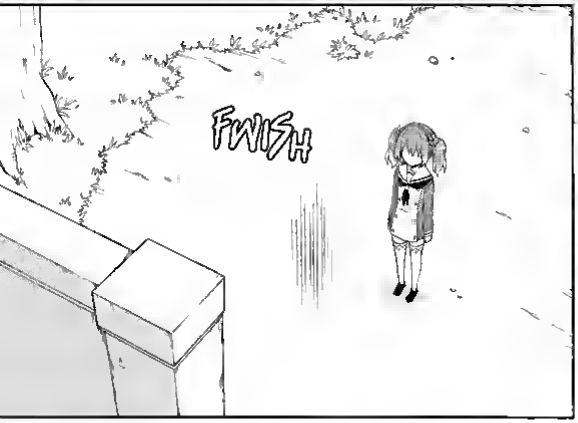

.....
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?
I CAN HEAR PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS, SO...
NO- IT WAS JUST... A STRANGE VOICE...

DESPITE THE FACT THAT YOU KEPT YOUR DISTANCE FROM EVERYONE IN CLASS WHEN YOU TRANSFERRED IN...
YOU'VE BEEN DITCHING CLASSES ALL DAY AND ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU'RE ASKING US ALL THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT NAKAJIMA...
UMM... THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU...

STIFFEN
ONODERA KYOUYA-KUN
WHY HAVE YOU SUDDENLY STARTED GETTING INVOLVED WITH THIS?
HIIRAGI-SAN, DID YOU READ SOMETHING OFF HIM?
IS THAT REALLY ALL..?
ME..? NOTHING REALLY, I WAS JUST CURIOUS DUE TO ALL THE FUSS YESTERDAY WITH THE WHOLE LEADER THING

SPIN
JUST TRYING TO MAKE FRIENDS, THAT'S ALL.
HIGH
HIIRAGI-SAN, ARE YOU SAYING THAT HE MIGHT BE THE ENEMY THAT HAS INFILTRATED THE SCHOOL...?
AH- NO, SORRY..
IT'S PROBABLY JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING...
SLIDE
CLACK
I WAS JUST SURPRISED FOR A MOMENT, SINCE A VOICE I HADN'T HEARD BEFORE SUDDENLY SHOWED UP OUT OF NOWHERE..
hmmm

THAT SAID, YOU'RE LIKELY INTERESTED IN WHAT'S GOING ON WITH NAKAJIMA-KUN AS WELL, RIGHT?
YEAH.
IT SEEMS THAT I'VE MANAGED TO AVOID FURTHER INQUIRIES INTO THAT MATTER FOR NOW
WELL.
WE SHOULD PROBABLY PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO HIM
ANY FRIEND OF HIIRAGI-SAN'S...
...IS A FRIEND OF MINE.
THEN WHY DON'T WE TAKE A LITTLE LOOK INTO THE MATTER?
CLATTER
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN SPARE THE TIME?
OF COURSE.
OKAY.
LET'S GO.


FWISH

ALRIGHT THEN I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK INTO THE PAST

huff
huff
DID YOU FIND ANY THING?

huff
huff

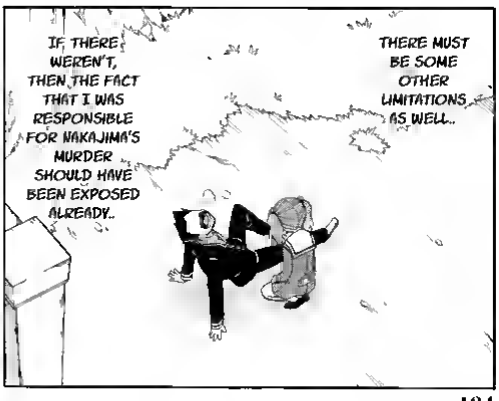
COLLAPSE

ARE YOU OKAY?
IT SEEMS GOING BACK INTO THE PAST IS QUITE EXHAUSTING...

huff
IT SEEMS IT'S TRUE THAT...
phew
NAKAJIMA DID NOT RETURN TO HIS ROOM LAST NIGHT.

WHAT AN AMAZING TALENT!
IF YOU WANTED, WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO RETURN TO THE SAME LOCATION IN THE PAST JUST BY WILLING IT?
YES.

DESPITE BEING A FRAIL KID IN THE PAST...
Wheeze
huff
THAT'S WHY I'VE TRAINED MY BODY UP...
YEAH


IF THERE WEREN'T, THEN THE FACT THAT I WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR NAKAJIMA'S MURDER SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXPOSED ALREADY..
THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER LIMITATIONS AS WELL...

HOW FAR BACK ARE YOU ABLE TO GO?
OTHERWISE IF HE KETWEATS IMMEDIATELY INTO THE PAST IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I'LL BE THE ONE WHO WINDS UP DEAD.
WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO KILL HIM USING A METHOD THAT ALLOWS HIM NO OPPORTUNITY TO RESIST WHATSOEVER...
AT MOST, A DAY.
THE FURTHER BACK I GO IN TIME, THE MORE ENERGY IT TAKES.
GOING MORE THAN 12 HOURS INTO THE PAST REQUIRES SO MUCH ENERGY, I FEEL LIKE THROWING UP WHEN I ARRIVE.
THAT SOUNDS PRETTY ROUGH...
BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING MISSING... WHY DIDN'T HE JUST RETRACE EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED TO HAKAJIMA IN A SINGLE TRIP BACK TO THE PAST?
AL-RIGHT. ONE MORE TIME.
LAST TIME, SOMEONE SPOTTED ME HALFWAY THROUGH
Phew
SOMEONE SPOTTED HIM...?
FWISH

WHAT DID YOU SEE THIS TIME?!

HIIRAGI-SAN. YESTERDAY, AFTER SCHOOL...
YOU AND NAKAJIMA-KUN WALKED OFF TOWARDS THE OCEAN, DIDN'T YOU...

WHEEZE

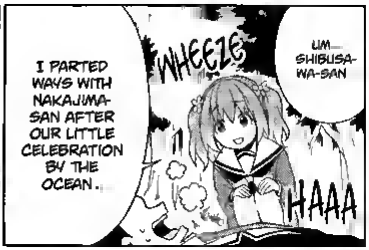
.....

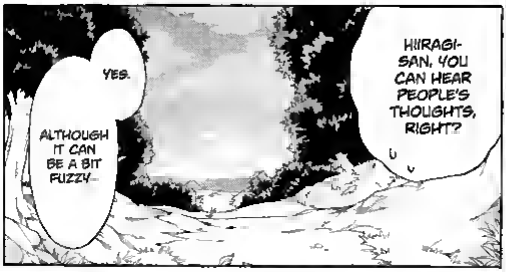
I'M JUST GOING TO FOLLOW YOUR TRAIL
FINISH

WHAT ABOUT IT?
NOTH-ING.

WHEEZE
HUFF
HAAH
HUFF

YEAH... HOW-EVER...
THERE'S NO TRACE OF NAKAJIMA COMING BACK TO THE DORM AFTER THAT.


I PARTED WAYS WITH NAKAJIMA-SAN AFTER OUR LITTLE CELEBRATION BY THE OCEAN.
WHEEZE
UM... SHIBUSA-WA-SAN
HAAA


HIIRAGI-SAN, YOU CAN HEAR PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS, RIGHT?
YES. ALTHOUGH IT CAN BE A BIT FUZZY...

I SEE.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU NOTICED..

THIS IS BAD...

YOU MEAN THE FACT THAT YOU'RE FORCED BACK TO THE PRESENT IF SOMEONE IN THE PAST SEES YOU?
YEAH. I CAN'T MAKE EYE CONTACT OR BE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED...
IT JUST GOES TO SHOW THAT CHANGING THE PAST IS NO EASY FEAT...
KOKO
HOWEVER, AT THIS RATE, HE'LL SOON REACH THE CLIFF WHERE NAKAJIMA WAS KILLED...
YOU SEEM PRETTY EXHAUSTED...
SHOULD WE JUST CONTINUE TOMORROW?
Guh
NO.
BUT YOU CAN BARELY STAND RIGHT NOW...
DIZZY DIZZY
THIS IS ALL FOR THE SAKE OF JUSTICE.
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, MY TALENT DOESN'T ALLOW ME TO RETURN MORE THAN 24 HOURS INTO THE PAST
THE MORE TIME PASSES, THE FURTHER AWAY THE TRUTH GETS.

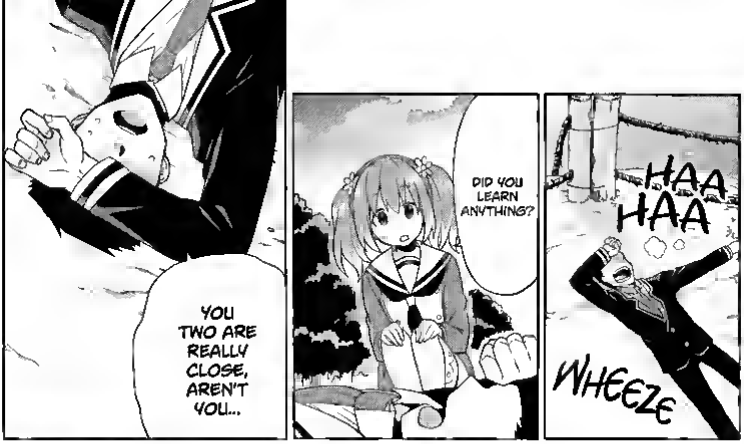
BESIDES, YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT NAKAJIMA-KUN AREN'T YOU?
Whirl
YOU'RE SMILING ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY WORRYING ABOUT HIM DEEP DOWN INSIDE, RIGHT?
BY THE WAY, DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT TIME YOU WENT TO THE OCEAN?
.....
WHAT'S WRONG?
DID THE TWO OF YOU...
...DO SOMETHING THERE THAT YOU'D RATHER NOT HAVE ANYONE FIND OUT ABOUT?
I BELIEVE IT WAS ABOUT 6 IN THE EVENING.
WE SHOULD STILL MAKE IT IN TIME
SHALL WE GO?

HIIRAGI-SAN. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I'M NOT DOING THIS BECAUSE I DOUBT YOU.
I KNOW

I'M OFF
HAVE A SAFE TRIP!

SWISH

I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF!


YOU TWO ARE REALLY CLOSE, AREN'T YOU...
DID YOU LEARN ANYTHING?
HAA HAA
WHEEZE

THE TWO OF YOU WERE HOLDING HANDS...

AFTER THAT...

YES!
LOOKS LIKE PAST ME REALLY WASN'T ABLE TO READ THE SITUATION...
JUST NOW, MY MEMORIES WERE RE-WRITTEN!

YOU NOTICED MY PRES-ENCE.
WAVER
HAA
OUR EYES MET.

I WAS HIDING IN THE BUSHES OVER THERE BUT.
Oh dear

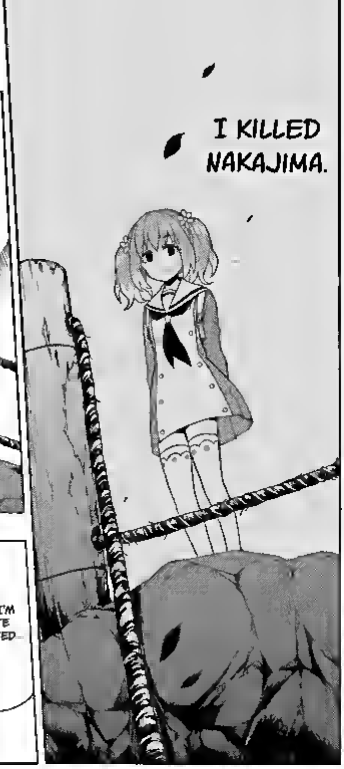
SO I NOTICED HIM!

I HAD MADE SURE TO TAKE THE UTMOST CAUTION...

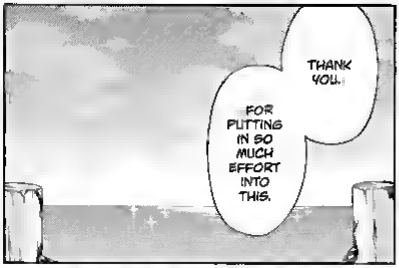
squeeze

...HE HAD COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED,
FWISH
AFTER MAKING SURE THAT...

I HAVE A DUTY I MUST FULFILL.
IF I WERE TO GET CARELESS AND GET SPOTTED TAKING SOMEONE DOWN,
IT WOULD LIKELY BECOME IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THIS DEN OF MONSTERS...

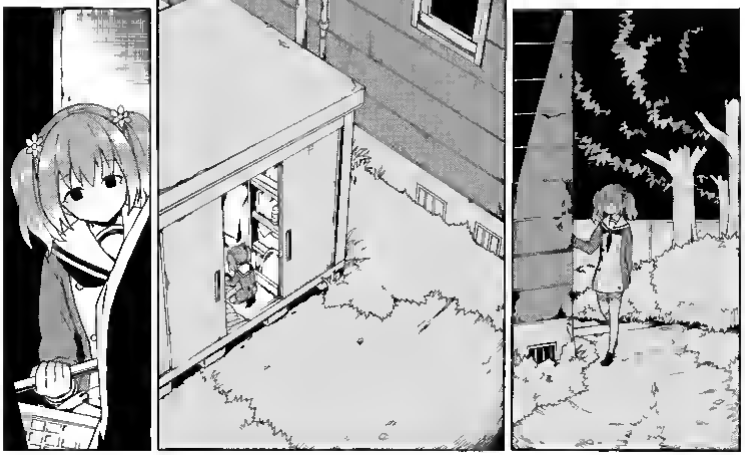

I KILLED NAKAJIMA.

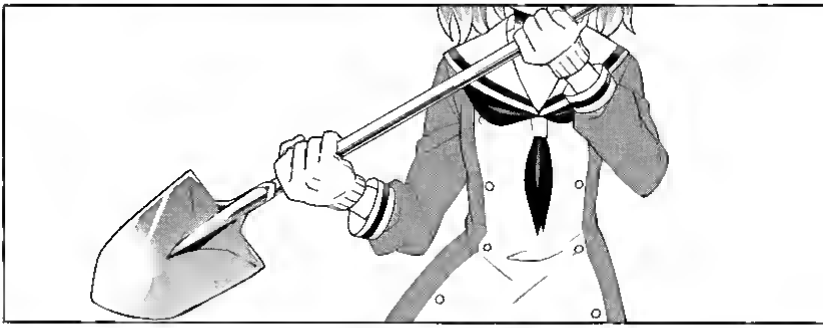
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
BUT I'M QUITE RELIEVED...
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
IT ISN'T STRANGE AT ALL TO BELIEVE THAT A NEW TRANSFER STUDENT MIGHT BE AN ENEMY OF HUMANITY


THANK YOU.
FOR PUTTING IN SO MUCH EFFORT INTO THIS.

AS MUCH AS I DON'T WANT TO,
LET'S HEAD HOME FOR THE DAY
OKAY

NOW THEN...
step





Tink
Tink
Tonk
Tink
Tonk

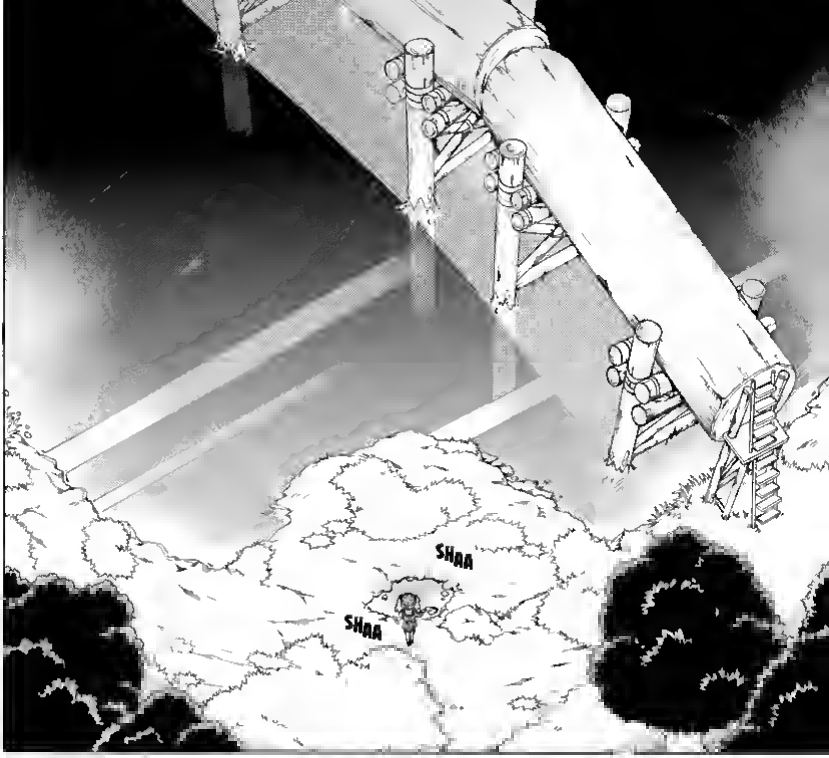
KNOCK
KNOCK
I WASN'T SURE IF I COULD TRUST YOU OR NOT...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WELL... GIVEN THAT I DOUBTED YOU AT FIRST AS WELL...
WHOOSH
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME EARLIER?!
I'M SORRY!
OVER HERE!

THAT'S WHERE NAKAJIMA-SAN WAS ATTACKED BY THE ENEMY OF HUMANITY!
WE ENTERED THIS FOREST TO GET AWAY FROM THE ENEMY...
AND THEN...
HERE? WHAT HAPPENED?
IT HAPPENED AFTER NAKAJIMA-SAN AND I HELD HANDS BY THE CLIFF
NAKAJIMA-SAN WAS CAUGHT AND COMPLETELY DEVOURED BY THE ENEMY... THERE'S NOT A TRACE OF HIM LEFT...
!
OF ALL THINGS.

WOULDN'T YOU BE ABLE TO SAVE NAKAJIMA-SAN?!
SOMEONE LIKE YOU, SHIBU-SAWA-SAN, WHO CAN CHANGE THE PAST...!
BUT...
I WAS SCARED... UNABLE TO DO ANY-THING...
NAKAJIMA WAS MURDERED IN THE EXACT SPOT YOU'RE STANDING RIGHT NOW!
PLEASE GO BACK IN TIME AND WARN HIM! GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO AVOID HIS FATE!
WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF TIME!
I BEG YOU!
BOW
!
LIFT
UNDER-STOOD
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.
THANK YOU.

I'LL BE BACK.
WITH NAKAJIMA-KUN.

SHHK
SHAA
SHAA


SHAA
SHAA

sparkle
sparkle

I PREDICTED THAT HE'D DROWN.
IN ADDITION TO NOT BEING ABLE TO SWIM, IF HE'S EXHAUSTED TO THE POINT OF VOMITING UPON ARRIVING...

THE ICE HERE SHOULD STILL BE WATER THIS TIME LAST NIGHT
KNOCK
KNOCK

...AND NOW THE LAKE IS FROZEN OVER.
WOOO!
CLENCH
OH! OH!
NO ONE NOTICED THE BODY THIS MORNING...

TALENT
LESS
NANA